

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the subject patent application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A consumable comprising: at least one material selected from the group consisting of image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, a first identifier indicative of the origin of the consumable, and a second identifier indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A method of making a consumable comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of an image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, the method comprising: at a manufacturing location marking the consumable with a first identifier indicative of the origin of the consumable; and at a secondary location, marking the consumable with a second identifier indicative of the supplier the consumable.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A method of operating a printing apparatus which is adapted to receive a consumable, the method comprising:

reading an identifier from the consumable, comparing the identifier against a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables, and generating an invalid indication if there is a match.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 23, further comprising:

reading a secondary identifier from the consumable, the secondary identifier identifying a supplier of the consumable, and displaying information about the supplier of a consumable.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A printing apparatus comprising:

a printer mechanism arranged to print an image onto an image receiving substrate;

a reader arranged to read the identifiers associated with consumables accepted in the printing apparatus;

a storage medium in the printing apparatus arranged to hold a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables, said list arranged to be updated with identifiers of subsequent empty consumables; and

a processor arranged to compare an identifier read by the reader with the list of any previously used identifiers and to generate an invalid indication if there is a match between the identifier read by the reader and the list of any previously used identifiers, wherein the invalid indication includes an internal control signal ~~at least one of~~ which disables the printing apparatus ~~or causes an error message to be displayed on a display of the printing apparatus.~~

Claim 26 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the reader comprises an RF coil.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the storage medium is arranged to hold a table comprising a plurality of identifier fields associated with respective status fields.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the storage medium is arranged to hold a table comprising a plurality of identifier fields associated with respective status fields.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the processor is arranged to load into one of said identifier fields an identifier read by the reader which does not match a previously used identifier.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the processor is arranged to load into one of said identifier fields an identifier read by the reader which does not match a previously used identifier.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a usage monitor for monitoring the usage of the consumable.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the processor is arranged to update the status field to indicate the amount of consumable remaining based on the usage monitored by the usage monitor.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the consumable comprises a supply of an image receiving substrate.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the usage monitor comprises an end of substrate detector.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the consumable comprises a supply of thermal transfer material.

Claim 36 (currently amended): In combination, a printing apparatus and a consumable associated with an identifier, wherein the printing apparatus comprises:

a printer mechanism to print an image onto an image receiving substrate;

a reader arranged to read the identifier;

a storage medium in the printing apparatus arranged to hold a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables; and

a processor arranged to compare the identifier read by the reader with the list of any previously used identifiers and to generate an invalid indication if ~~said consumable has been used and emptied such that~~ there is a match between ~~[[said]]~~ the identifier read by the reader and ~~[[said]]~~ the list of any previously used identifiers ~~associated with empty consumables~~, wherein the invalid indication includes an internal control signal which disables the printing apparatus or causes an error message to be displayed on a display of the printing apparatus, and wherein said processor is arranged to permit a printing operation if ~~said consumable is not associated with one of said previously used identifiers such that there is not a match between said identifier read by the reader and said list of previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables such that printing operations cannot be implemented.~~

Claim 37 (previously presented): A combination according to claim 36, wherein the consumable comprises a cassette in which the image receiving substrate is housed.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A combination according to claim 36, wherein the consumable comprises a spool around which the image receiving substrate is wound.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A combination according to claim 36, wherein the consumable comprises a supply of thermal transfer material.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): A consumable comprising: at least one material selected from the group consisting of image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, a first identifier which uniquely identifies the consumable, and a second identifier indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): A consumable comprising: at least one material selected from the group consisting of image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, a first identifier programmed during fabrication, and a second identifier additionally inserted to the first identifier and including information indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 41, wherein the information indicative of the supplier of the consumable is contact information of the supplier.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 21, wherein said first and second identifiers are carried on the same tag.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 22, wherein said first and second identifiers are carried on the same tag.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 40, wherein said first and second identifiers are carried on the same tag.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 41, wherein said first and second identifiers are carried on the same tag.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 43, wherein said tag is an RF tag.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 44, wherein said tag is an RF tag.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 45, wherein said tag is an RF tag.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): A consumable according to claim 46, wherein said tag is an RF tag.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): A method of making a consumable comprising: at least one material selected from the group consisting of an image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, the method comprising: marking the consumable with a first identifier which uniquely defines the consumable, and additionally marking the consumable with a second identifier indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): A method of making a consumable comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of an image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, the method comprising: marking the consumable with a first identifier during manufacturing; and inserting additionally to the first identifier a second identifier, including information indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the storage medium comprises a column of unique identifier fields, one or more corresponding status fields, and a blacklist including the list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A combination according to claim 36, wherein the storage medium comprises a column of unique identifier fields, one or more corresponding status fields, and a blacklist including the list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables.

Claim 55 (canceled).

Claim 56 (currently amended): A printing apparatus comprising:

a printer mechanism arranged to print an image onto an image receiving substrate;

a reader arranged to read identifiers associated with consumables accepted in the printing apparatus;

a storage medium in the printer arranged to hold a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables; and

a processor arranged to compare the identifier read by the reader with the list of any previously used identifiers and to generate an invalid indication if there is a match between the identifier read by the reader and the list of any previously used identifiers, wherein the invalid indication includes an internal control signal which disables the printing apparatus such that printing operations can not be implemented.

Claim 57 (canceled)

Claim 58 (currently amended): In combination, a printing apparatus and a consumable associated with an identifier unique to that consumable, said consumable comprising an image receiving substrate, said substrate provided with markings indicative of the amount of image receiving substrate remaining; wherein the printing apparatus comprises:

a printer mechanism to print an image onto said image receiving substrate;

a reader arranged to read the unique identifier;

a monitor for reading said markings indicative of the amount of image receiving substrate remaining;

a storage medium in the printing apparatus arranged to hold a list of any previously used unique identifiers associated with empty consumables;

wherein the printing apparatus is arranged to monitor the usage of said consumable using said markings indicative of the amount of image receiving substrate remaining, and to store said unique identifier in said storage medium when said consumable is empty.